

Paonias astylus (Huckleberry Sphinx)

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Insecta* (Insects)

Order: *Lepidoptera* (Butterflies, Skippers, And Moths)

Family: *Sphingidae* (Sphinx Moths)

General comments:

2 modern EOs; historically more widespread; traditionally rare in New England; in northern part of range, has typically been associated with PP barrens, but also uses bogs, barrens, heath lands, etc with lots of blueberry in other parts of range; potentially under-surveyed in habitats outside PPSO in ME – RW says most common in highbush blueberry swamps, which have not been surveyed in southern ME; also flies late in evening, so may be undercollected?

Species Conservation Range Maps for Huckleberry Sphinx:

Town Map: [Paonias astylus_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Paonias astylus_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Paonias astylus is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority: NA

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa:

Recently documented or poorly surveyed rare species for which risk of extirpation is potentially high (e.g. few known occurrences) but insufficient data exist to conclusively assess distribution and status. *criteria only qualifies for Priority 3 level SGCN*

Notes:

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx:

Formation Name	Freshwater Marsh
Macrogroup Name	Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh
Habitat System Name:	Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp
	<i>Notes: potentially bogs where host plant (blueberry) present</i>
Formation Name	Grassland & Shrubland
Macrogroup Name	Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland
Habitat System Name:	Ruderal Upland - Old Field
	<i>Notes: potential; where host plant (blueberry) present</i>
Formation Name	Northeastern Upland Forest
Macrogroup Name	Central Oak-Pine
Habitat System Name:	Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forest
	<i>Notes: potential; where host plant (blueberry) present</i>
Habitat System Name:	Northeastern Interior Pine Barrens
	Primary Habitat <i>Notes: where host plant (blueberry) present</i>
Macrogroup Name	Northern Hardwood & Conifer
Habitat System Name:	<i>Notes: barrens and heath lands where host plant (blueberry) present</i>

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Formation Name Northeastern Upland Forest

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Pine-Hemlock-Hardwood Forest **Notes:** *potential; barrens and heath lands where host plant (blueberry) present*

Habitat System Name: Northeastern Coastal and Interior Pine-Oak Forest **Notes:** *potential; barrens and heath lands where host plant (blueberry) present*

Stressors Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Dry Barrens Lepidoptera Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
Prepare occurrence maps and pesticide spray consultation guidelines for rare Lepidoptera and distribute to strategic partners including Maine Bureau of Pesticides Control.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
Conduct a statewide review of potential high quality barrens habitat that is threatened by succession and identify strategic habitat restoration actions for implementation by key conservation partners.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fire and Fire Suppression

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.